UNITED NATIONS **S**

Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/26264
6 August 1993

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 6 AUGUST 1993 FROM THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to refer to Security Council resolution 849 of 9 July 1993 which, inter alia, stresses the importance the Council attaches to the implementation of a cease-fire and a peace process with the effective involvement of the United Nations. To this end, the Council requested me to send my Special Envoy for Georgia, Ambassador Edouard Brunner, to the region to assist in reaching an agreement on the implementation of the cease-fire.

A cease-fire agreement was signed on 27 July 1993 in Sochi by the Georgian and Abkhaz sides with the assistance of the Deputy Foreign Minister of the Russian Federation, Mr. Boris Pastukhov. My Special Envoy arrived in the region on 28 July, four hours after the cease-fire had entered into force. He stayed in the region until 31 July and had discussions with both parties to the conflict as well as with officials from the Russian Federation. He held further discussions with Mr. Pastukhov and other interlocutors in Moscow on 3 August.

My Special Envoy's consultations focused on paragraph 9 of the cease-fire agreement which provides for all parties to the conflict to immediately resume, under United Nations auspices and with the cooperation of the Russian Federation, negotiations towards preparing an Agreement on the Comprehensive Settlement of the Conflict in Abkhazia.

The Georgian Head of State, Mr. Eduard Shevardnadze, was strongly in favour of the holding of a first round of negotiations between the two parties to the conflict in Abkhazia and suggested Geneva as the venue. The Abkhaz authorities, led by Mr. Vladislav Ardzinba, also supported a first round of negotiations in Geneva.

The Georgian and Abkhaz sides, as well as Deputy Minister Pastukhov, agreed that this process should start as soon as possible under United Nations auspices and with the Russian Federation acting as facilitator. However, with regard to the specific date and venue, Mr. Pastukhov preferred to wait and see how the cease-fire was faring before taking a position.

I welcome the outcome of my Special Envoy's consultations. The cease-fire and the deployment of United Nations and Russian observers are important steps in the right direction. However, a political process must also be started in

order to tackle the root of the conflict, which is political in nature. The readiness of the two parties to meet and talk with each other provides an opportunity that must not be missed.

I have accordingly asked my Special Envoy to continue his efforts, with a view to convening a first round of negotiations before 15 September, possibly in Geneva.

I should be grateful if you could bring the above information to the attention of the Security Council.

(Signed) Boutros BOUTROS-GHALI